
TABLE OF CONTENTS VOLUME I A - MFSA APPLICATION

MFSA CROSS REFERENCE TABLE

CHAPTER 1	PURPOSE, NEED AND BENEFITS	1-1
1.1	INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.2	SUMMARY OF PURPOSE, NEED, AND BENEFITS.....	1-3
1.3	BACKGROUND.....	1-3
1.3.1	Recent Legislative and Regulatory Actions.....	1-3
1.3.2	NorthWestern Energy (NWE)	1-5
1.3.3	Montana Import and Export Paths (inc. MT-ID Path).....	1-6
1.3.4	Montana Internal Paths	1-9
1.4	PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT.....	1-9
1.4.1	Respond to Customer Requests for Transmission Capacity	1-10
1.4.2	Provide a Transmission Path for New Generation Development ..	1-11
1.5	NEED FOR THE PROJECT	1-14
1.5.1	Changing Transmission Use	1-14
1.5.2	Relieve Congestion on the Existing Facilities.....	1-15
1.5.3	Improve Transmission System Performance and Flexibility	1-19
1.5.4	Meet the Regional Electrical Demand	1-21
1.6	BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT	1-24
1.6.1	Regional Benefits	1-24
1.6.2	Provide Energy Diversification	1-25
1.6.3	Provide Bi-Directional Transmission Capacity	1-25
1.6.4	Provide Market Competition and Increase Supplier Choice	1-26
1.6.5	Provide a Positive Economic Impact	1-26
1.7	PLANNING REQUIREMENTS (AUTHORIZATIONS AND PERMITS).....	1-27
CHAPTER 2	PROPOSED ACTION AND PROJECT ALTERNATIVES.....	2-2
2.1	Project Overview.....	2-1
2.1.1	New 500kV Transmission Line	2-1
2.1.2	New Townsend Substation	2-2
2.1.3	Mill Creek Substation	2-2
2.1.4	Midpoint Substation Modifications	2-2

2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION	2-3
2.2.1 Alternative Transmission Technologies.....	2-3
2.2.2 Underground Construction	2-4
2.2.3 Non-Transmission.....	2-6
2.2.4 Other Routing Alternatives.....	2-7
2.3 ALTERNATIVES STUDIED IN DETAIL.....	2-7
2.3.1 No Action	2-7
2.3.2 Proposed Action	2-8
2.4 RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION	2-29
2.4.1 Acquisition of Right-of-Way across Federal Lands.....	2-29
2.4.2 Acquisition of Right-of-Way across Non-Federal Lands.....	2-29
2.4.3 Plan of Development.....	2-32
2.5 CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND ABANDONMENT	2-32
2.5.1 Transmission Line	2-32
2.5.2 Substations	2-48
2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES AND SPECIFICALLY RECOMMEND MITIGATION.....	2-53
2.6.1 Introduction	2-53
2.7 ALTERNATIVE ROUTE IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION	2-53
2.7.1 Regional Environmental Study	2-53
2.7.2 Corridor/Route Link Study.....	2-60
2.7.3 Routing Alternatives Evaluation Process.....	2-62
2.7.4 Comparison of Routing Alternatives	2-64
2.7.5 Identification of Preferred Route	2-71
CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT.....	3-1
3.1 INTRODUCTION	3-1
3.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	3-2
3.2.1 Introduction	3-2
3.2.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-3
3.2.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-5
3.2.4 Substations	3-34
3.2.5 Communication System	3-34
3.3 WATER RESOURCES AND WETLANDS.....	3-35
3.3.1 Introduction	3-35
3.3.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-35
3.3.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-39

3.3.4 Substations	3-46
3.3.5 Communication System	3-46
3.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....	3-47
3.4.1 Introduction	3-47
3.4.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-47
3.4.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-50
3.4.4 Substations	3-55
3.4.5 Communications System.....	3-56
3.5 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	3-56
3.5.1 Introduction	3-56
3.5.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-57
3.5.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-60
3.5.4 Substations	3-62
3.5.5 Communication System	3-62
3.6 LAND USE	3-62
3.6.1 Introduction	3-62
3.6.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-62
3.6.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-63
3.6.4 Substations	3-126
3.6.5 Communication System	3-126
3.7 VISUAL RESOURCES	3-127
3.7.1 Introduction	3-127
3.7.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-127
3.7.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-133
3.7.4 Substations	3-146
3.7.5 Communication System	3-147
3.8 SOCIOECONOMICS.....	3-147
3.8.1 Introduction	3-147
3.8.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-147
3.8.3 Population, Demographics, and Housing	3-149
3.8.4 Employment and Economy	3-156
3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	3-168
3.9.1 Regulatory Framework.....	3-168
3.9.2 Project Area Overview	3-170
3.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES	3-171
3.10.1 Introduction	3-171
3.10.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-172
3.10.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-172
3.10.4 Substations	3-175

3.10.5 Communication Systems.....	3-175
3.11 CLIMATE AND AIR QUALITY	3-175
3.11.1 Introduction	3-175
3.11.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-177
3.11.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-177
3.11.4 Substations	3-181
3.11.5 Communication System	3-181
3.12 NOISE	3-181
3.12.1 Introduction	3-181
3.12.2 Inventory Methods.....	3-182
3.12.3 Description of Alternative Routes	3-183
3.12.4 Substations	3-184
CHAPTER 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	4-1
4.1 INTRODUCTION	4-1
4.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	4-3
4.2.1 Introduction	4-3
4.2.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-3
4.2.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-12
4.2.4 Effects of Substation Construction	4-18
4.2.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-19
4.3 WATER RESOURCES AND WETLANDS.....	4-19
4.3.1 Introduction	4-19
4.3.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-19
4.3.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-22
4.3.4 Effects of Substation Construction	4-25
4.3.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-25
4.4 GEOLOGY AND SOILS.....	4-25
4.4.1 Introduction	4-25
4.4.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-26
4.4.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-29
4.4.4 Effects of Substation Construction	4-33
4.4.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-33
4.5 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	4-33
4.5.1 Introduction	4-33
4.5.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-33
4.5.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-36
4.5.4 Effects of Substation Construction	4-38
4.5.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-38

4.6 LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION	4-38
4.6.1 Introduction	4-38
4.6.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-39
4.6.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-41
4.6.4 Effects of Substation Construction.....	4-54
4.6.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-54
4.7 VISUAL RESOURCES	4-55
4.7.1 Introduction	4-55
4.7.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-55
4.7.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-71
4.7.4 Effects of Substation Construction.....	4-83
4.7.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-84
4.8 SOCIOECONOMICS AND PUBLIC SERVICES	4-84
4.8.1 Introduction	4-84
4.8.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-85
4.8.3 Cost Estimates	4-90
4.8.4 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-95
4.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	4-117
4.9.1 Introduction	4-117
4.9.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-117
4.9.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-118
4.9.4 Effects of Substation Construction.....	4-120
4.9.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-120
4.9.6 Conclusions.....	4-121
4.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES	4-121
4.10.1 Introduction	4-121
4.10.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-121
4.10.3 Impact Level.....	4-122
4.10.4 Impact Type.....	4-123
4.10.5 Specific Mitigation Measures.....	4-123
4.10.6 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-124
4.10.7 Effects of Substation Construction.....	4-126
4.10.8 Effects of Communication System.....	4-127
4.11 EMF, AUDIBLE NOISE, CORONA, RADIO/TV INTERFERENCE	4-127
4.11.1 Electric and Magnetic Fields	4-127
4.11.2 Audible Noise	4-156
4.11.3 Radio and Television Interference	4-160
4.11.4 Interference with Railroad Signals	4-164

4.12 NOISE (CONSTRUCTION)	4-164
4.12.1 Introduction	4-164
4.12.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-164
4.12.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-167
4.12.4 Effects of Substation Construction.....	4-169
4.12.5 Effects of Communication System.....	4-169
4.13 AIR QUALITY (CONSTRUCTION)	4-169
4.13.1 Introduction	4-169
4.13.2 Methods for Assessing Impacts	4-169
4.13.3 Effects of Each Alternative.....	4-171
4.13.4 Mill Creek to State Line Segments	4-173
4.13.5 Effects of Substation Construction	4-175
4.13.6 Effects of Communication System.....	4-176
4.14 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.....	4-176
4.14.1 Cumulative Impacts Region of Influence	4-176
4.14.2 Past and Present Actions Potentially Contributing to Cumulative Impacts.....	4-176
4.14.3 Related Future Actions Potentially Contributing to Cumulative Impacts.....	4-177
4.14.4 Cumulative Impact Analysis by Issue Area	4-178
4.15 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES	4-189
CHAPTER 5 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION	5-1
5.1 INTRODUCTION	5-1
5.2 PUBLIC AND AGENCY SCOPING PROCESS.....	5-1
5.2.1 Public Open Houses	5-1
5.2.2 Elected Official Briefings.....	5-3
5.2.3 Other Public Communications.....	5-4
5.2.4 Agency Meetings and Communications.....	5-6
5.2.5 Summary of Comments and Issues	5-7
5.3 AGENCY CONSULTATION.....	5-9
5.3.1 Biological Resources	5-9
5.3.2 Cultural Resources	5-9
CHAPTER 6 LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS.....	6-1
List of Preparers and Contributors	6-1

CHAPTER 7 REFERENCES.....	7-1
References	7-1
CHAPTER 8 ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY	8-1
8.1 Acronyms.....	8-1
8.2 Glossary	8-7

List of Figures

Figure 1.1-1	Project Area and Alternative Transmission Line Routes.....	1-2
Figure 1-2	NWE Transmission System and WECC Region.....	1-6
Figure 1-3	Import and Export Path Ratings.....	1-7
Figure 1-4	Principal Transmission Network in the WECC Region.....	1-8
Figure 1-5	NWE Internal and External Paths.....	1-9
Figure 1-6	NWE Load and Generation Resources	1-11
Figure 1-7	Montana Capacity Transfer to Utah, California, and Oregon	1-14
Figure 1-8	Northern Tier Transmission Group Member Transmission Facilities	1-15
Figure 1-9	Selected Special Management Areas in Montana	1-16
Figure 1-10	Current and Projected Congestion in the Western Interconnection Region.....	1-18
Figure 1-11	Northern Terminus Location	1-19
Figure 1-12	Strategic Collector System for New Generation.....	1-20
Figure 1-13	States with Renewable Portfolio Standards	1-22
Figure 1-14	Proposed Transmission Projects	1-23
Figure 2-1	Typical 500kV Structure Types.....	2-14
Figure 2-2	Photographs of Typical 500kV Structure Types	2-15
Figure 2-3	Typical Microwave Facility	2-18
Figure 2-4	Map of Microwave Facility Locations	2-21
Figure 2-5	Aerial of Townsend Substation Site	2-24
Figure 2-6	Townsend Substation General Arrangement	2-25
Figure 2-7	Mill Creek Substation General Arrangement.....	2-28
Figure 2-8	Typical Transmission Line Right-of-Way	2-31
Figure 2-9	Foundation and Structure Construction Activities	2-40
Figure 2-10	Conductor and Ground-Wire Stringing Activities.....	2-39
Figure 2-11	Estimated Workforce and Duration for Transmission Line Construction	2-46
Figure 2-12	Estimated Workforce and Duration for Townsend, Mill Creek and Midpoint Substation Construction.....	2-50
Figure 2-13	Study Area.....	2-56
Figure 2-14	Alternative Routes.....	2-59
Figure 2-15	Preferred Route	2-78
Figure 3.8-1	Historical Population Summary, MSTI Analysis Area	3-149
Figure 3.8-2	Historical Population Graph, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area.....	3-151
Figure 3.8-3	Population Projections, Montana MSTI Counties, 2010-2030.....	3-153
Figure 3.8-4	Age Distribution, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area	3-154
Figure 3.8-5	Charted Ethnicity and Race, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area.....	3-155
Figure 3.8-6	Employment Summary, MSTI Analysis Area, 1990-2007(Total Employment on Left Axis, Percent Unemployed on Right Axis).....	3-157

Figure 3.8-7	Total Employment, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1990-2007.....	3-159
Figure 3.8-8	Total Annual Average, Unemployed Labor Force, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1990-2007.....	3-160
Figure 3.8-9	Annual Average Unemployment Rates, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1990-2007.....	3-161
Figure 3.8-10	Monthly Employment, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1995-2007.....	3-162
Figure 3.8-11	Monthly Unemployed Labor Force, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1995-2007.....	3-163
Figure 3.8-12	Per Capita Annual Income, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1990-2007.....	3-164
Figure 3.8-13	Percent of Population with Incomes below Poverty Level in 1999	3-165
Figure 3.8-14	Annual Construction Employment, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area, 1995-2007.....	3-167
Figure 3.8-15	Monthly Construction Employment, State of Montana, 1998-2007 ..	3-168
Figure 4.7-1	Photo Simulation Locations.....	4-57
Figure 4.7-2	Key Observation Point Number 1.....	4-59
Figure 4.7-3	Key Observation Point Number 2.....	4-61
Figure 4.7-4	Key Observation Point Number 3.....	4-63
Figure 4.7-5	Key Observation Point Number 5.....	4-65
Figure 4.11-1	Case 1.....	4-135
Figure 4.11-2	Case 2.....	4-135
Figure 4.11-3	Case 3.....	4-136
Figure 4.11-4	Case 4	4-136
Figure 4.11-5	Case 4a	4-137
Figure 4.11-6	Case 5	4-137
Figure 4.11-7	Case 6	4-138
Figure 4.11-8	Case 7	4-138
Figure 4.11-9	Case 8	4-139
Figure 4.11-10	Case 9	4-139
Figure 4.11-11	Case 10.....	4-140
Figure 4.11-12	Case 11.....	4-141
Figure 4.11-13	Structure Alternative.....	4-141
Figure 4.11-14	Case 1 EMF Plots	4-143
Figure 4.11-15	Case 2 EMF Plots	4-144
Figure 4.11-16	Case 3 EMF Plots	4-145
Figure 4.11-17	Case 4 EMF Plots	4-146
Figure 4.11-18	Case 4a EMF Plots.....	4-147
Figure 4.11-19	Case 5 EMF Plots	4-148
Figure 4.11-20	Case 6 EMF Plots	4-149
Figure 4.11-21	Case 7 EMF Plots	4-150
Figure 4.11-22	Case 8 EMF Plots	4-151
Figure 4.11-23	Case 9 EMF Plots	4-152
Figure 4.11-24	Case 10 EMF Plots	4-153

Figure 4.11-25 Case 11 EMF Plots	4-154
Figure 4.11-26 Structure Alternative vs. Guyed V EMF Plots	4-155

List of Tables

Table 1-1 Capacity Additions with Montana System Upgrade Project.....	1-13
Table 1-2 Western Interconnection Congestion Areas	1-17
Table 1-3 Power Supply Margin (MW) by Sub-Region for WECC Power Supply Assessment Case #1.....	1-21
Table 1-4 Authorizations, Permits, Reviews, and Approvals.....	1-27
Table 2-1 Electrical Design Characteristics of the 500kV Transmission Line	2-10
Table 2-2 Access Levels and Ground Disturbance	2-34
Table 2-3 Major Construction Activities and Number of Workers per Crew	2-42
Table 2-4 Construction Equipment.....	2-44
Table 2-5 Alternative Routes Comparison	2-73
Table 3.2-1 Summary (linear miles) of Vegetation Communities and Habitat Types By Alternative for the Townsend to Melrose portion of the MSTI project.....	3-7
Table 3.2-2 Summary (linear miles) of vegetation communities and habitat types by Alternative for the Melrose to State Line portion of the MSTI project.....	3-7
Table 3.2-3 Summary (linear miles) of overall vegetation communities by Alternative.....	3-7
Table 3.2-4 Montana Special Status Plant Species	3-9
Table 3.2-5 Noxious Weed Occurrence According to Montana County Association Pertaining to the MSTI Project	3-17
Table 3.2-6 Special Status Animal Species of Montana that May Occur in the Study Area.....	3-20
Table 3.2-7 Linear Miles of Wildlife Movement Corridors Crossed by the Proposed MSTI Alternatives	3-25
Table 3.2-8 Linear Miles of Big Game Winter Habitat Crossed by the Proposed MSTI Alternatives	3-26
Table 3.2-9 Linear Miles of Elk Summer Habitat Crossed by the Proposed MSTI Alternatives	3-26
Table 3.2-10 Linear Miles of Sage Grouse Habitat Crossed by the Proposed MSTI Alternatives and Sage Grouse Lek Proximity to the Proposed MSTI Alternatives	3-28
Table 3.2-11 Linear Miles of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) Crossed by the Proposed MSTI Alternatives	3-29
Table 3.4-1 Miles of Geologic Features by Alternative	3-50
Table 3.4-2 Miles of High Soil Erodibility by Alternative	3-50
Table 3.4-3 New Townsend Substation Site Soil Attributes.....	3-56
Table 3.6-1 Schools within the Study Area	3-65
Table 3.6-2 BLM Wilderness Study Areas within the Study Area	3-72

Table 3.6-3	Existing BLM ACECs within the Study Area	3-72
Table 3.6-4	Potential ACECs within the Study Area	3-73
Table 3.6-5	Research Natural Area Descriptions within the Study Area	3-73
Table 3.6-6	Recreational Opportunities by Existing Special Recreation Management Area	3-74
Table 3.6-7	Management of Special Recreation Management Areas	3-75
Table 3.6-8	State Fishing Access Sites within the Study Area	3-76
Table 3.6-9	Land and Water Conservation Fund Sites within the Study Area	3-77
Table 3.6-10	BLM Mineral Material Sites within the Study Area.....	3-82
Table 3.6-11	Land Jurisdiction Crossed by the A1: Preferred Route	3-83
Table 3.6-12	Platted Subdivisions Crossed by the A1: Preferred Route.....	3-84
Table 3.6-13	Major Farm Support Buildings (and Other Similar Structures)	3-84
Table 3.6-14	Agricultural Lands Crossed by the A1: Preferred Route.....	3-85
Table 3.6-15	Important Farmland Crossed by the A1: Preferred Route	3-86
Table 3.6-16	Special Management Areas Crossed by the A1: Preferred Route	3-87
Table 3.6-17	Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – A1: Preferred Route.....	3-88
Table 3.6-18	MDEQ Permitted Opencut and Hard Rock Mines Crossed by the A1: Preferred Route	3-89
Table 3.6-19	Land Jurisdiction Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route	3-90
Table 3.6-20	Platted Subdivisions Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route.....	3-90
Table 3.6-21	Major Farm Support Buildings (and Other Similar Structures) within ½ Mile and 150 Feet of the Centerline of the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route	3-90
Table 3.6-22	Agricultural Lands Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route	3-91
Table 3.6-23	Important Farmland Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route.....	3-92
Table 3.6-24	Important Farmland Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route.....	3-92
Table 3.6-25	Special Management Areas Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route	3-93
Table 3.6-26	Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route	3-94
Table 3.6-27	MDEQ Permitted Opencut and Hard Rock Mines Crossed by the A2: Parallel Colstrip Lines Route.....	3-95
Table 3.6-28	Land Jurisdiction Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility	3-96
Table 3.6-29	Platted Subdivisions Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility Corridors.....	3-97
Table 3.6-30	Major Farm Support Buildings (and Other Similar Structures) within ½ Mile and 150 Feet of the Centerline of A3: Maximize Utility	3-98
Table 3.6-31	Agricultural Lands Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility Corridors.....	3-99
Table 3.6-32	Important Farmland Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility Corridors	3-100
Table 3.6-33	Conservation Reserve Program Land Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility Corridors	3-101
Table 3.6-34	Superfund Sites Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility Corridors.....	3-101
Table 3.6-35	Special Management Areas Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility	

Corridors	3-102
Table 3.6-36 Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – A3: Maximize Utility Corridors	3-103
Table 3.6-37 MDEQ Permitted Opencut and Hard Rock Mines Crossed by A3: Maximize Utility Corridors	3-104
Table 3.6-38 Land Jurisdiction Crossed by the B1: Preferred Route	3-105
Table 3.6-39 Agricultural Lands Crossed by the B1: Preferred Route	3-105
Table 3.6-40 Important Farmland Crossed by the B1: Preferred Route	3-106
Table 3.6-41 Special Management Areas Crossed by the B1: Preferred Route....	3-107
Table 3.6-42 Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – B1: Preferred Route	3-108
Table 3.6-43 Land Jurisdiction Crossed by the B2: Sheep Creek Route.....	3-109
Table 3.6-44 Agricultural Lands Crossed by the B2: Sheep Creek Route	3-110
Table 3.6-45 Important Farmland Crossed by the B2: Sheep Creek Route.....	3-110
Table 3.6-46 Special Management Areas Crossed by the B2: Sheep Creek Route.....	3-111
Table 3.6-47 Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – B2: Sheep Creek Route.....	3-111
Table 3.6-48 MDEQ Permitted Opencut and Hard Rock Mines Crossed by the B2: Sheep Creek Route	3-111
Table 3.6-49 Land Jurisdiction Crossed by the B3: I-15 Route	3-112
Table 3.6-50 Platted Subdivisions Crossed by the B3: I-15 Route.....	3-112
Table 3.6-51 Agricultural Lands Crossed by the B3: I-15	3-113
Table 3.6-52 Important Farmland Crossed by the B3: I-15 Route	3-114
Table 3.6-53 Special Management Areas Crossed by the B3: I-15 Route	3-115
Table 3.6-54 Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – B3: I-15 Route.....	3-115
Table 3.6-55 Federal Authorized Oil and Gas Leases Crossed by the B3: I-15 Route	3-115
Table 3.6-56 MDEQ Permitted Opencut and Hard Rock Mines Crossed by the B3: I-15	3-116
Table 3.6-57 Land Jurisdiction Crossed by the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route	3-116
Table 3.6-58 Platted Subdivisions Crossed by the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route.....	3-117
Table 3.6-59 Major Farm Support Buildings (and Other Similar Structures) with ½ Mile and 150 Feet of the Centerline of the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route.....	3-117
Table 3.6-60 Agricultural Lands Crossed by the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route.....	3-118
Table 3.6-61 Important Farmland Crossed by the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route....	3-119
Table 3.6-62 Special Management Areas Crossed by the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route.....	3-122
Table 3.6-63 Montana Highway and Railroad Crossings – AB1: Jefferson Valley Route.....	3-123
Table 3.6-64 MDEQ Permitted Opencut and Hard Rock Mines Crossed by the AB1: Jefferson Valley Route	3-124
Table 3.6-65 Land Use Summary Comparison (number of miles crossed)	3-125
Table 3.6-66 Land Use Summary Comparison (Number of Residential and Major Farm Support Buildings/Other Similar Structures) Occurrences.....	3-126
Table 3.7-1 Visual Resource Inventory Summary	3-133

Table 3.8-1	Historical Population, Montana Counties, Cities, and Places in the MSTI Analysis Area	3-152
Table 3.8-2	Tabulated Ethnicity and Race, Montana Counties in the MSTI Analysis Area.....	3-155
Table 3.9-1	Income and Poverty Status, State of Montana and MSTI Counties..	3-171
Table 3.10-1	Cultural Resources along MSTI Alternative Routes.....	3-173
Table 3.11-1	WRCC Monitoring Site Annual Averages	3-178
Table 3.11-2	State of Montana and National Ambient Air Quality Standards	3-179
Table 3.12-1	Comparison of Noise Sources.....	3-182
Table 3.12-2	Existing Major Noise Sources (Transportation Corridors) by Alternative	3-183
Table 3.12-3	Residences and Recreation Areas with 1.0 Mile of Centerline by Alternative.....	3-184
Table 4.2-1	Resource Sensitivity.....	4-4
Table 4.2-2	Impact Summary to Biological Resources.....	4-5
Table 4.2-3	Preliminary Environmental Protection and Mitigation Measures Pertaining to Biological Resources.....	4-11
Table 4.4-1	Geology Impacts	4-30
Table 4.6-1	Specifically Recommended Mitigation Measures – Land Use	4-41
Table 4.6-2	Summary Comparison of Land Use Residual Impacts by Alternative Route (miles)	4-52
Table 4.7-1	Visual Resource Impact Summary	4-73
Table 4.8-1	Cost Summary, Transmission Construction, All Alternatives (2008 dollars).....	4-92
Table 4.8-2	Total Cost Summary by Alternative (2008 dollars).....	4-93
Table 4.8-3	Total Cost and Details, Combined Preferred Route (Townsend to Midpoint)(2008dollars)	4-94
Table 4.8-4	Miles of Transmission Line by County and Land Jurisdiction and Built Values, Combined Preferred Route (Townsend to Midpoint)	4-97
Table 4.8-5	Mil Levy Rates and Property Tax Collections, Montana Counties in Which Project Facilities Would be Located	4-99
Table 4.8-6	Property Tax Payments by County, All Alternatives	4-100
Table 4.8-7	Land Ownership and Value Built, Alternative A1	4-101
Table 4.8-8	Land Ownership and Value Built, Alternative A2	4-102
Table 4.8-9	Land Ownership and Value Built, Alternative A3	4-103
Table 4.8-10	Land Ownership and Value Built, Alternative B1.....	4-104
Table 4.8-11	Land Ownership and Value Built, Alternative B2.....	4-105
Table 4.8-12	Land Ownership and Value Built, Alternative B3.....	4-105
Table 4.8-13	Local and Non-local Construction Worker Schedule, Combined Preferred Route (Montana)(A1 and B1)	4-107
Table 4.8-14	IMPLAN Model Inputs (2008 dollars), AB1 Jefferson Valley Route	4-108
Table 4.8-15	IMPLAN Model Inputs Direct and Indirect Employment, Combined Preferred Route (Montana)	4-109
Table 4.8-16	Land Ownership and Value Built, Townsend to Pipestone/	

Mill Creek to Stateline Route.....	4-112
Table 4.8-17 Local and Non-local Construction Worker Schedule, Alternative AB1 (Townsend to Pipestone/Mill Creek Bringham Point), Montana Component	4-113
Table 4.8-18 IMPLAN Model Inputs (2008 dollars), Alternative AB1 (Townsend to Pipestone/Mill Creek Bringham Point), Montana Component	4-114
Table 4.8-19 IMPLAN Model Direct and Indirect Employment, Alternative AB1 (Townsend to Pipestone/Mill Creek Bringham Point), Montana Component	4-115
Table 4.11-1 Residential Sources of Magnetic Fields.....	4-128
Table 4.11-2 Induced Currents for Various Objects in milli-amperes (mA)	4-132
Table 4.11-3 Electric Current Effects on the Human Body	4-132
Table 4.11-4 Case Study/Route Segment Cross Reference.....	4-134
Table 4.11-5 Areas of Potential Concern	4-142
Table 4.11-6 Typical Ranges of Audible Sound Levels for Common Sources.....	4-156
Table 4.11-7 Audible Noise Results at Edge of Right-of-Ways.....	4-159
Table 4.11-8 Radio Interference at 100 ft. from Outermost Conductor.....	4-162
Table 4.11-9 Television Interference at 100 ft from Outermost Conductor	4-163
Table 4.12-1 Noise Levels at Various Distances from Construction Noise Sources.....	4-165
Table 4.14-1 Transmission Lines Located in MSTI Project Area Montana	4-177
Table 4.14-2 NorthWestern Energy Generation Interconnection Queue.....	4-179
Table 5-1 MSTI Public Open Houses in Montana.....	5-2
Table 5-2 Elected Official Briefings in Montana	5-3
Table 5-3 Agency Meetings in Montana	5-6
Table 5-4 Agency Communications from Montana	5-7
Table 5-5 Comments Received During Open Houses in Montana	5-8